

# Discovering Animals in Fermilab's Natural Areas



### Bison

*Bison bison*

One of North America's largest grazers, bison widely roamed the prairies across

the Midwest. Their feeding and herding activity created micro-habitats for native plant succession and opportunities for smaller animals to live in their wake. Bison viewing at Fermilab is available year-round.



### Bobolink

*Dolichorhynchus oryzivorus*

With a yellow hat, black front and a brightly colored back during breeding

season, this prairie denizen looks upside-down. You can hear its bubbly, cheerful song throughout the summer. Its color turns drab after breeding season, and it is an extraordinary migrant, traveling south of the equator each autumn and making a round-trip of approximately 12,500 miles.



### Coyote

*Canis latrans*

Coyote, also known as 'song dog' or 'prairie wolf,' are known as the top canine predator in

urbanized regions near Fermilab and have a noticeable impact on a variety of wildlife populations. Coyotes can run up to 40 miles an hour. In the fall and winter, they form loose packs for more effective hunting. They are often seen along the bike path, with a year-round viewing season.



### Eastern Meadowlark

*Sturnella magna*

One of the classic prairie birds, this summer resident can be heard singing its

sweet song in open grasslands. Meadowlarks are robin-sized birds with a bright yellow breast, thick black necklace and are members of the blackbird—not lark—family. Migrating adults arrive in Illinois in March and stay until October or November, flying by day short distances at low altitudes.



### Great Horned Owl

*Bubo virginianus*

The great horned owl is the most common owl of the Americas, easily recognizable

because of the feather tufts on its head. These "plumicorns" resemble horns or, to some, catlike ears. These primarily nocturnal birds breed at Fermilab and hunt small prey. After consuming their dinner, owls regurgitate pellets, which can often be found along prairie paths. Owl viewing is possible year round at dusk.



### Red-tailed Hawk

*Buteo jamaicensis*

The red-tailed hawk is one of the most widely distributed hawks in North

America and is the most common raptor in the Midwestern region. Breeding pairs live at Fermilab and sometimes migrate south during cold winters. Their food supply is focused on small rodents, reptiles and birds. Viewing is best from spring through fall.

# Fermilab Natural Areas

The mission of Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA) is to restore, manage and conserve Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory's natural areas in support of its science mission, and to encourage visitors to experience and enjoy Fermilab's natural beauty.

FNA is a not-for-profit organization that welcomes and promotes public access to the Fermilab site, which includes one of the largest restored prairies in the Midwest. It is a volunteer-based organization supported by member donations and grants. More information and opportunities to support FNAs mission can be found at [www.fermilabnaturalareas.org](http://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org).

## Tours and Resources

**Guided tours** Guided tours of Fermilab's natural areas, including the Main Injector wetland and Oak Savanna, or focused on wildlife such as butterflies, are offered seasonally. To arrange a tour, call (630) 840-4845 or visit [www.fermilabnaturalareas.org](http://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org). Guided tours of Fermilab focusing on the laboratory's history and science, and offering a behind-the-scenes look at Fermilab's facilities, are usually offered Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m., or by appointment. For more information or to arrange a tour, call (630) 840-5588 or visit [ed.fnal.gov](http://ed.fnal.gov).

**Self-guided tours** Self-guided tours of Fermilab's public natural areas can be taken during the laboratory's opening hours via automobile or bicycle or on foot. Downloadable guides are available at [www.fermilabnaturalareas.org](http://www.fermilabnaturalareas.org).

Visitors to Fermilab are welcome to visit the ground floor and atrium of Wilson Hall or the Lederman Science Center. The Wilson Hall atrium offers an exhibit, videos and a cafeteria. The Lederman Science Center exhibits teach students and adults about particle physics, from quarks to quasars. Visitors can also attend lectures and arts performances held in Ramsey Auditorium. The schedule is at [www.fnal.gov/culture](http://www.fnal.gov/culture).

### Opening hours for the Fermilab site and Wilson Hall

Mid-April through mid-October:

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day

Rest of year: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day

### Opening hours for the Lederman Science Center

Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Guided tour for families the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Groups of 6 or more must book a visit: (630) 840-8258

### Emergency First Aid/Security

(630) 840-3131

## Directions

Fermilab's main entrance is located at the intersection of Kirk Road and Pine Street in Batavia, Illinois, about 45 miles west of Chicago. From I-88, take the Farnsworth exit and travel north. Farnsworth becomes Kirk Road; follow Kirk Road to Pine Street.

### Site Access

Visitors may enter Fermilab through the Pine Street or Batavia Road entrances. Please present a photo identification and tell the security officer the purpose for your visit. Roadways off-limits to the public are posted with signs.

### Resources

Extensive seasonal guides to the birds, butterflies and plants of Fermilab are available at [www.fnal.gov/birds](http://www.fnal.gov/birds).

For more information about Fermilab and the science of particle physics, visit Fermilab's website at [www.fnal.gov](http://www.fnal.gov).

## Fermilab



# Fermilab Visitors Guide & Map







## Discover Natural Areas at Fermilab

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory is the United States' premier particle physics laboratory. More than 2,300 scientists from around the world collaborate with Fermilab to explore the nature of matter, energy, space and time. Together with Fermilab's 1,900 staff members, they use the laboratory's technology centers and expertise to develop better particle accelerators and build the world's most advanced particle detectors.

Open to the public every day of the year, Fermilab's 6,800-acre site has hundreds of acres of restored prairies, woodlands, lakes and wetlands that can be enjoyed in all seasons. You can connect with nature at Fermilab through coyote, bird, bison and butterfly watching, or through activities such as photography, hiking, biking, dog training, in-line skating and cross-country skiing. Fermilab is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.



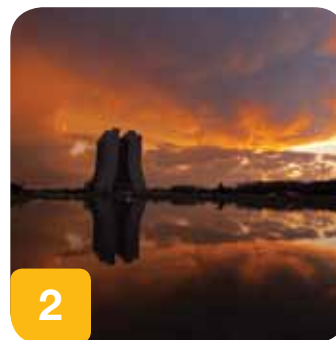
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### Site 1 Margaret Pearson Interpretive Trail

The Margaret Pearson Interpretive Trail is located near the Lederman Science Education Center. This one-quarter-mile mowed prairie and native woodland ecosystem trail traverses 75 acres. Hikers can learn about prairies from information panels placed along the trail and can observe prairie plant species including prairie dock,

white wild indigo, compass plant, foxglove beard tongue and wild bergamot.

The Margaret Pearson Interpretive Trail prairie is home to many species of butterflies, moths, bees and wild birds including the bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel and upland sandpiper. The woodland is characterized by its diverse tree species along with understory plants like golden seal, twin leaf, path sedge and Jacob's ladder.



2

### Site 2 Wilson Hall Reflective Pond

Wilson Hall Reflective Pond is a wonderful place to observe many species of insects and birds.



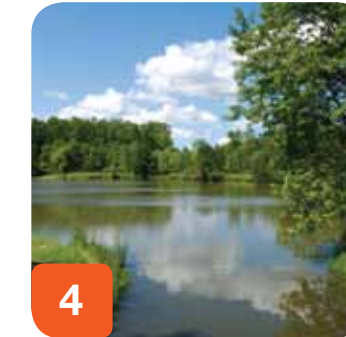
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### Site 3 Bison Viewing at Fermilab

The 1,100 acres of restored prairies at Fermilab honor the prairie heritage of Illinois. The lab's first director, Robert R. Wilson, brought the bison herd to the lab in 1969. Bison are a symbol of the frontier, in this case the frontier of high-energy physics, and a link to the origin of the site as part of the great Midwestern prairie.

You can observe the bison as they roam their 80-acre double-fenced pasture from either Road D or Old Batavia Road. The size of the herd varies seasonally and usually numbers about 20-25 bison.

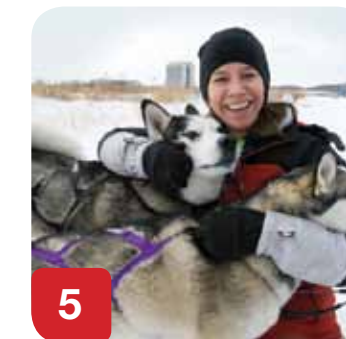
There is a small parking area available at the farmstead for those who drive to the bison pasture. This is a good site for observing and photographing bison, however, it is important to note that bison are wild animals. For your safety, please stay well behind the fence.



4

### Site 4 A.E. Sea and Lake Law Nature Area

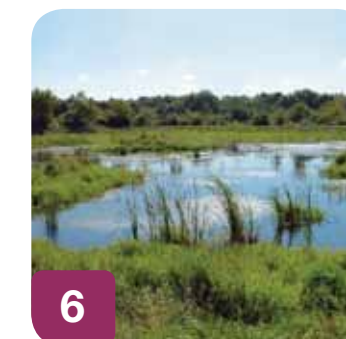
Hiking paths surround the A.E. Sea and Lake Law via a mowed path. This is a great site for fishing, canoeing, birdwatching, botanizing, jogging and cross-country skiing. An Illinois fishing license is required.



5

### Site 5 Dog Training Area

The site offers the opportunity for off-leash dog exercise and training; a small parking lot is available. Unleashed dogs are allowed only in the dog training area, and must be leashed outside the training area. Please supervise your dogs closely as this part of the site is inhabited by several coyotes.



6

### Site 6 Nepese Marsh and DUSAF Pond

Nepese Marsh was formerly a sewage treatment lagoon for the town of Weston that was converted to a wetland with the help of volunteers and lab employees who fully drained, cleaned, and replanted it. Fishing, bird watching, and botanizing are possible at the DUSAF Pond which abuts the Nepese Marsh acreage.



7

### Site 7 Historic Pioneer Cemetery

A tiny cemetery on the Fermilab site preserves the graves of Illinois pioneers, as well as Robert Rathbun Wilson, Fermilab's founding director, and Mrs. Wilson. Thompson Mead, a general in the War of 1812 is also interred at the cemetery; his grave is one of eighteen identifiable burials. Tours available by appointment only.



Discovering Natural Areas at Fermilab



Margaret Pearson Interpretive Trail



Wilson Hall Reflective Pond and Swan Lake



Bison Viewing and Bison Barn



Lake Law and A.E. Sea Natural Area

Additional Areas:

- 5 Dog Training Area (Off-leash)  
All other areas require leash
- 6 Nepese Marsh and DUSAF Pond
- Sculptures
- By Appointment Only:
- 7 Historic Pioneer Cemetery
- 8 Restored Prairie and Savanna
- 9 Main Injector Wetland



Main Path

- Public Area
- Bicycle Trail
- Walking/Jogging
- Dog Walking

Legend

- Butterfly Area
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Scenic View
- Bathrooms
- Handicap Access
- Drinking Water
- Trash Receptacles
- Parking

Emergency Contact

(630) 840-3131

